

# WATER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE AND THE SWFWMD

After the Drought: Is a New Paradigm  
Shift Needed?

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# CONSERVATION

- Websters:        Controlled use and systematic protection of natural resources, as forests and waterways
- SWFWMD:        A “source” of water created by enhancing the efficiency of its use

# WATER CONSERVATION AT THE SWFWMD

- Regulatory and non-regulatory
- Integrated with Water Supply planning / development
- Cooperatively funded
- Education and research emphasis
- Interagency support

# REGULATORY APPROACH

- Public Supply per capita
- Agricultural irrigation efficiency standards and credits (SWUCA)
- WC Plans for Industrial, commercial, Mining, Dewatering, Recreation / Aesthetics

# REGULATORY APPROACH

## (cont.)

- Reuse / Desalination feasibility investigation (SWUCA)
- Water conserving rate structures
- Water Audits
- Year Round Conservation Rule
- Water Shortage Rule

# INTEGRATION WITH WATER SUPPLY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Districtwide Water Supply Assessment
- Regional Water Supply Plan (2001)
- Tampa Bay Partnership Agreement
- Need to develop alternative sources
  - Conservation (all uses)
  - Reclaimed Water
  - Storm water / Surface water
  - Desalination (brackish and seawater)

# COOPERATIVE FUNDING

- Eligible projects: Reuse, retrofit, outdoor, education, research, innovation, etc.
- 1988-2002 investment: About \$180 million (locally matched)
- Recent examples:
  - CHAMP (Pinellas-Anclote BB)
  - Toilet / rain sensor rebates (Hillsborough BBs)
  - Manatee County reuse system (Manasota BB)
  - Water conservation messaging

# WATER CONSERVATION TASK FORCE

- Established July 2000
- Membership: LGs, public suppliers, recreation, ag, tourism, industry, development, environment
- Purpose: Promote and encourage WC as one primary tool to address west-central Florida's long-term water supply challenges



# WATER CONSERVATION TASK FORCE (cont.)

- Strategic Plan principles
  - Long-term vs. short-term solution
  - All water users to contribute
  - Public / private partnerships
  - Utilize all available tools
  - Build water use efficiency into new development

# WATER CONSERVATION TASK FORCE (cont.)

- Task Force Goals
  - Achieve WC / reuse potentials of RWSP
  - Raise awareness
  - Share information and technologies
  - Educate the public
  - Make efficiency an essential part of growth management
  - Create incentives
  - Integrate long and short-term strategies

# WATER CONSERVATION TASK FORCE (cont.)

- Accomplishments
  - On-line library and database  
([www.watermatters.org](http://www.watermatters.org) or  
[www.conservaioninfo.org](http://www.conservaioninfo.org))
  - Public and in-school education
  - Water Conservation summit(s)
  - Project funding support
  - Participation in statewide initiative

# FLORIDA WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

HOW CAN A COMMUNITY GET THE  
MOST OUT OF WATER CONSERVATION?

# FLORIDA WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

- A CUSTOM JOB
- COMMUNITY – KNOW THYSELF
- SB 1906 IMPLICATIONS
- VOLUNTARY WC – THE GUIDANCE  
MANUAL APPROACH
- CASE STUDY / PILOT PROJECT CONCEPT

# SUMMARY

- Water Conservation is working
- All users must be involved to assure success (equity)
- Districts must lead and get out of the way
- Raise the bar